Head Quarters 75th Ills Vol
Near Nashville Tenn
May 2nd 1865

Dearest Lydia

I have received your letter of April 24th and I see that the hours and days drag wearily by to you, and the only thing that sustains you is the thought that it is only four months more, to be sure that is only a little while, but we think it will not be that long before we will be home if nothing happens, the talk is that the 62 troops are to be mustered out at once, probably within the next thirty days. Every thing indicates that this will be done, there is nothing official on the subject yet, but our Division Commanders is of this opinion and it is the talk in all Military circles — I do not like to raise any false hopes, but I am so positive of it that I venture to communicate it to you
The Paymasters with three millions of money are now in Nashville to pay the 4 Corps. but

The report is that they are not going to pay the 42 troops until they are mustered out and if we are it be mustered out in a few weeks I presume this will be the case, however we will know in a few days as they begin the payment this month— If I knew that in thirty days I should be at home with you, a citizen once more I should be the happiest man in the World

Only think of it, the War over, our last battle is fought, our last March is made and we are homeward bound, and peace is in the land, after three years suffering, strife and bloodshed, Oh! if ever Mortals should be thankful it is ourselves who have escaped through all this & seen so many fall by our sides while we are saved to return to our loved ones

We have a beautiful Camp, the weather is fine I have enough to do to keep me busy, but not too much. My health is good & am very happy in the prospect of so soon living with my darling Wife.— This I know cheers you up and although you are annoyed and embarassed in many ways you will meet them bravely knowing that Victory your good for nothing

husband returns he will be able to make your duties less burdensome, and your path more pleasant

I have now something over Eleven hundred dollars due me, and there will probably another month pays before we are mustered out. Congress has also voted us three months pay for per which would be one hundred and fifty more if we stay until the Nov 15th and if we are discharged before our time is out. I cannot see how they can construe it to mean anything but that the War is over

I am however owing some debt will have enough with the prospects I have to feel pretty independent

I have neither to finish this and the Mail is already to go & I will write again in a day or two

Ever your loving Husband

O. H. Rand

Adjutant 75th Ills Vol